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YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT AT NEST IN POLK COUNTY

## NESTING RECORD OF YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT IN POLK COUNTY

By DR. AND MRS. HAROLD R. PEASLEY

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DES MOINES, IOWA  
(With photographs by the authors)

DuMont, in "Birds of Polk County" (1931), records the Yellow-breasted Chat as "a fairly rare migrant." We would like to report our observations of a nest in the Camp Dodge area of Polk County, Iowa, July 8 to 29, 1956. This area is bottom land along Beaver Creek which has been ungrazed since 1917, and as a consequence is covered with crabapple and hawthorn thickets which make it an accepted habitat for the chat.

Our first sight record was in May, 1935, when in the company of Mrs. John Stewart we watched one for 30 minutes. Since then at irregular intervals it has been seen or heard in this limited area. We again saw the chat during the summers of 1944 and 1945. At that time many days were spent vainly searching for the nest. The birds were occasionally seen in the intervening years until on May 23 and June 4, 1953, we saw and heard it again several times. Each summer since 1953 the chat has been seen and heard regularly in this area of 5 or 6 acres within the large Camp Dodge woods.

Our 1956 observations began on July 8, when the nest was tentatively identified. It contained three eggs, one of which was a Cowbird's. This egg was removed. The nest was located 5 feet from the ground in a wild crabapple tree near the margin of a thicket. It was a roughly built affair having a foundation of coarse straw, weed stems and leaves, then many smaller weed stems, hard straws and thin strips of grape-vine bark and finally was lined with fine grasses. It presented an unstable appearance but was actually quite substantial when later examined. The eggs were approximately three-fourths inch in length and one-half inch in diameter, of ivory color and with a wreath of rufous brown spots at the large ends. As we first approached the nest the incubating bird slipped off and disappeared into the thicket and could not be positively identified although their songs had been heard frequently the same day. On July 11 as we approached, the bird again slipped away without being clearly seen. The two eggs then appeared shiny and near the end of incubation. On July 14, using the telescope, we saw the chat perched on the edge of its nest, which then contained two young; we estimated them to be one or two days of age. On July 15, using eight-power binoculars, we watched the adults in the act of feeding the young but could not tell whether male or female parent was doing the feeding.

At first the young were fed every 20 to 60 minutes. Later, as they grew the intervals became shorter until on July 22, the last day in the nest, they were fed every five minutes. On July 18 the young were growing rapidly and were covered with quills. On July 20 they were becoming more active and aggressive; on July 21 they were in grayish-brown plumage with a suggestion of yellow on their breasts. On July 22, at 11:00 a. m., the first definite call for food was heard from the young, which by now were standing and nearly filled the nest. By evening one was perched on the edge as if it were ready to leave, and on July 23 we were not surprised to find the home vacated. By its chirping voice one of the young was found 50 feet away perched in a honey-locust tree from which it flew 15 feet to a crabapple thicket. On July 25 no young or parents were seen or heard. On July 29 we saw one singing adult. During the observation period the male regularly occupied three different singing perches about 30 feet from the nest. The birds often approached to within 8 feet of us while we were in the blind.



Kodachrome motion and still pictures were made of the young being fed. Although the birds are considered shy and elusive, we experienced little difficulty in photographing them. In order not to disturb them, the camera approach was made gradually over several days. No fear of the cameras operating with regular lenses two and one-half feet from the nest was shown by either of the adults. Remote control was used with and without a blind 30 feet away.

The nests of the following birds were found within a radius of 300 feet: Dickcissel, discovered by Albert Berkowitz, 40 feet; Field Sparrow, 75 feet; Bell's Vireo, 200 feet; Black-billed Cuckoo, 300 feet; Mourning Dove, 200 feet; Cardinal, 300 feet. Bob-white and pheasant calls as well as songs of many other species were heard frequently in the immediate vicinity.

We were always greeted with a burst of song on our arrival. The days passed quickly in the delightful company of the chats. We never tired of watching the young being fed or listening to the male singing within a few feet of our blind, and watching him approach within 8 feet trying to get a better look at us. After years of searching for their nest, to have such an intimate glimpse into the home life of the elusive chat was a most gratifying and happy experience. We were a little sad when it was over, but happy too that they had successfully raised their young.



SITE OF YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT NEST

Although we have found the nests of many birds this has been our outstanding experience. As Taverner ably expressed it: "The chat . . . is a most interesting bird. It is the spirit of the tangled thickets and brushy wastes and like a spirit it comes and goes unseen, but not unheard. It laughs and cackles, whistles, and mocks. Full of insatiable curiosity, part clown and largely a gossip and a meddler, it hides in the tangled undergrowth to tell the intruder just what it thinks of him. Its language at times will not stand translating—not for nothing is the interior of its mouth black!" (Birds of Canada, 1934, p. 364). To our knowledge this is the first nesting record of the yellow-breasted Chat in Polk County.

## EASTERN BIRD NOTES

By MARTIN L. GRANT

Iowa State Teachers College  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

A six-weeks motor trip, July 31 to September 9, 1956, took us 4,500 miles through 12 eastern states and Ontario, and, although there were a number of other important objectives involved, a few bird observations were made, some of which were recorded on colored slides. Our primary purpose, financially supported by the National Science Foundation, was to study the collections of pressed and dried plants from the South Pacific in the great collections of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University, by means of which we hope to reconstruct the vegetational history of that part of the world.

At Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, we went through the Museum and the Sanctuary, and climbed up to the top of the mountain. While it was too early in the season (August 2) to expect any hawks, the view was beautiful and the plant life interesting.

Two days were spent in southern New Jersey, during the shore-bird migration period. The best locality we found for this purpose was Long Island Beach, an 18-mile-long, narrow, offshore sandspit, largely of white quartz. While most of it is built up as a series of summer resorts, there is a square-mile area at the southern tip with no houses, and it was here we found the largest variety of birds. Our observations of August 6 included 50 Piping Plover, 15 Semipalmated Plover, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 300 Ruddy Turnstones, 25 Spotted Sandpipers, 2 Willets, 1 Greater Yellow-legs, 5 Lesser Yellow-legs, 200 Pectoral Sandpipers, 5 White-rumped Sandpipers, 5 Baird's Sandpipers, 20 Least Sandpipers, 20 Dowitchers, 3 Knots, and 3000 Sanderlings—which would be a good list of shore-birds in any locality. The Sanderling was by far the most common sandpiper we found whenever we reached the ocean.

Besides these 15 species of sandpipers and plover, eight species of gulls and terns were seen in the same locality: 800 Herring Gulls, 500 Ring-billed Gulls, 300 Laughing Gulls, 25 Black-backed Gulls, 1000 Common Terns, 30 Least Terns, 3 Roseate Terns, and 3 Black Terns, plus 3 Black Skimmers. This area is also rich in Seaside Sparrows, which, with the Fish Crow, the Barn Swallow, and the Redwing, were the only common Passerine birds observed. In fact, only eight species of "land" birds were found.

Farther south, in a heronry at Stone Harbor, were found 300 American Egrets, 100 Snowy Egrets, 5 Louisiana Herons, 100 Little Blue Herons, 10 Black-crowned Night Herons, 25 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and a few Great Blue and Green Herons. This site is bordered by a main paved road, and several of each of these species could be seen without getting out of the car. We almost ran over a Hudsonian Curlew. Ospreys (we found several



nests with the young able to fly) and Turkey Vultures both appeared to be common in southern New Jersey, and a few Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen.

The Cape May area, at the extreme southern tip of New Jersey, was not so interesting, since it was too early for the land-bird migration, for which this region is probably as famous as any place on the east coast. The Witmer Stone Wildlife Sanctuary, commemorating the man who made himself the most familiar with the bird life of southern New Jersey, is actually rather desolate looking at this time of the year, with poor-quality forests of scrub pine, many of which had been killed by the smoke and fumes from the adjacent magnesite factory. Fifty Tree Swallows, possibly local birds, were found, a forecast of the many thousands to arrive later. Washed up along the shore there were hundreds of the foot-long chains of the egg-cases of the whelk (*Busycon*), looking like long rattlesnake-rattles.

On the mudflats at the north tip of Cape Cod many of the same species of shore-birds and gulls seen in New Jersey were spotted. However, the farther up the coast we went, the more Black-bellied Plovers, Turnstones, and Black-backed Gulls occurred. On reaching Maine, we noticed several species we had not seen farther south: American Scoter, Purple Sandpiper, Arctic Tern, and Black Guillemot, and, in the forests, White-throated Sparrows and Ruffed Grouse.

Travel in the east is enormously facilitated by the superb, limited-access turnpikes now available in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, all of which we used. While there are toll charges on most of them, the time saved, when that is important, more than makes up for the cost. Our only complaint is that in many of the states (notably Ohio and New York) tourists are seriously discouraged from stopping along the road to notice the scenery or observe the wildlife. Permissible stops in these states involve only accidents, gas stations, rest rooms, and restaurants. In New York, for example, we had driven 150 miles with no sign of a police car, but the minute we stopped to investigate some roadside flowers a patrolman was there immediately, wanting to know what was going on. Other states, such as Pennsylvania and New Jersey (the Garden State Parkway) have gone out of their way to encourage people to stop and look around.

Being interested in professional education, we stopped to look at several college campuses: Notre Dame, Oberlin, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Connecticut, Williams, the University of Vermont, and Bowdoin, and visited a number of other educational institutions: the Marine Biological Institute (Woods Hole, Mass.), the Oceanographic Institute, Phillips Exeter Academy, and various nature camps in five states.

The Boston vicinity, where we spent the most time, afforded much opportunity to investigate colonial history. We visited Provincetown, where the Pilgrims first landed, Truro Springs, where they secured their first fresh water, and stopped at Plymouth, where they made the first settlement, seeing there the original church site (the building of later vintage, originally Congregational, now Unitarian), and, of course, legendary Plymouth Rock. We had to visit the Fairbanks House, built in the country, a tribute to the duracitors, now the oldest frame building in the country, a tribute to the durability of the white pine of which it is constructed. We also saw the battlefields of Lexington and Concord, the House of Seven Gables at Salem, Walden Pond, and the fishing boats of Gloucester, where the lazy Herring Gulls were eating all the scraps.

Miscellaneous highlights of the trip included seeing the Lady of Fatima Shrine at South Bend, Niagara Falls (we arrived there just 26 years too late for a honeymoon), Atlantic City, the United Nations Building in New York,

the burning of Memorial Hall on the Harvard campus, porpoises and seals in Casco Bay (Maine), taking a trip on the Staten Island ferry, a trip by car completely around Cape Cod, attending the four-day meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in Connecticut, and visiting many relatives and other friends.

## I HEARD THE HERMIT SING

By MRS. W. C. DeLONG

LAMONI, IOWA

Hamelin's piper, so the legend goes, piped the children away from their homes with his wonderful music. I, too, was piped away hundreds of miles from my home by the love song of a bird.

I have a little home in Missouri where my southern window watches alertly the comings and going of birds—about the bird feeder in winter, the bird bath in summer.

My boots wait expectantly on my back porch for me to come and tramp them through the woods. And it often seems to me that even the birds wait for me too. In early April it is the Fox Sparrows and Towhees scratching in the old oak leaves and among the dead fronds of the maidenhair ferns, the Juncos and Tree Sparrows feeding in the weed patches along the border of the woods, or the drab-colored Goldfinches in their winter dress, having their last winter songfest. It is this time of year that a Hermit Thrush often starts suddenly from the ground, when I approach, flies quickly to a low branch, looks about nervously, and then retreats to the deeper woods. Another is just as likely to fly to a low limb, where regarding me, utters a low chuck, while slowly tilting his short, reddish-brown tail. This is the manner in which the Hermit introduces and identifies himself, but always he seems to be trying to elude my notice.

I have always wanted to hear a Hermit Thrush sing, but have never expected to hear one sing in my woods, for rarely does one sing while migrating. The Hermit Thrush reserves his silver notes only for his summer home where he nests in the far north or on some high mountain-side; so vacation time in July sent my family speeding toward Rocky Mountain National Park to hear the Hermit's song.

I insinuated some of my enthusiasm into my family as together we hiked from Bear Lake to Lake Haiyaha, climbing higher and higher among the Engleman spruce and the Douglas fir. On the mountain trail we were greeted by several small groups of Gray-headed Juncos busily engaged in searching for food among the dense evergreens. We paused and watched the old birds feed insects to their hungry, streaked, sparrow-like offspring. The smacking notes and flashing white V's of their tails reminded us of other Juncos in our Missouri woods in winter. The lisping calls of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets caused us to stop and admire the red crown patch as their heads were tipped forward; and the mellow, deep-toned warble of one of them was loud enough to be heard several hundred yards away.

All this time we were watching for the Hermit Thrush along the mountain trail, but as it happened we heard him before we saw him. His exquisite notes soared flute-like, from the depths of the mountains, aspiring above the lakes and waterfalls clearly to serenade his love. Then suddenly around a turn of leaves I saw him and he saw me. Instantly he stopped his song, and it seemed to me we eyed each other with almost mutual recognition. I said to him silently, "Well, here I am, Audubon Hermit Thrush. You have piped me over concrete, rivers, hills, and rocks to hear you. Why do you stop your singing?" Living up to his name he retreated shyly to his

hermitage of shade. But as though he recognized that we had some claim on him, he retreated slowly, trailing his glorious music after him. Climbing higher and ever higher up the mountain-side, we heard flute-like notes again and again from the deeping solitude as many Hermits loosed their songs like some high priests of sound into the consecrated cathedral of the trees.

Home now, in my Missouri woods with my Bluebirds and Whip-poor-wills, I can still hear Hermit Thrushes fill the cool, green spruce and firs with their harmony. Next July, perhaps, they will pipe me forth again up evergreen trails to listen entranced to their incomparable music, ringing out full and clear from the depths of the forest.

## BIRDING IN THE ESTHERVILLE REGION

By B. O. WOLDEN and M. L. JONES

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA

Estherville is located in the center of an outstanding birding area. The local Izaak Walton League boasts of having the most state-owned areas devoted to wildlife of any county in Iowa. Upland prairies, marshes and lakes of varying sizes provide suitable habitat for upland game, waders and ducks.

The Des Moines River flows through Estherville and provides a flyway for the small birds. Fort Defiance State Park, lying just at the edge of Estherville, provides an assortment of woodland bird life, as do suitable places along the Des Moines River. In good warbler years Fort Defiance abounds with many species of warblers.

At Mini-Wakan State Park, on the north side of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County, will be found some fine, big trees which harbor warblers delaying the final take-off into Minnesota and other points north. Farther west and south, interesting drives lead into heavy timber on the north side of Marble Lake where warblers are numerous when the flight is at its peak. A number of ducks are usually near to shore here, also.

While the lakes of Okoboji and Spirit Lake offer large water areas to attract birds, not many of them will be found resting on these lakes but rather in the fringe areas bordering the larger bodies of water.

Nearer to Estherville (lying just inside the Emmet County line) is Four Mile Lake. Even at this extremely dry season it holds considerable water and is always good for a fair duck count during spring migration. Also at Four Mile will be found a few warblers along the margins where trees and shrubs are common. The weedy areas provide cover for a good variety of sparrows.

Cheever Lake (now a wildlife refuge) is much like Four Mile Lake but offers an easier opportunity to approach quite close to the habitat of the Least Bittern and rails even though the observer wears only street shoes. Both of these small lakes have public access roads where the observer may drive to a high point quite near the shore-line and thus take note of many of the ducks by use of binoculars or spotting scope used from the car.

Twelve Mile Lake lies south of Estherville and is one of the few nearby areas where the Tree Swallow has been nesting of recent years.

Anyone wishing to go as far away as Lost Island Lake will find in that vicinity many ponds, marshes and weedy fields which can harbor bird life varying from Marsh Wrens to Pelicans. Those coming to the convention would do well to consider coming by way of Lost Island Lake and possibly Okoboji and Spirit. After this long drive you may be encouraged to know that Estherville is only 15 miles east of Spirit Lake.

For those coming from the east or southeast a welcome break might be provided by trying the Ingham Lake region. The large stretches of open





LAKE SCENE IN EMMET COUNTY—INGHAM AND HIGH LAKES FROM THE SOUTH  
Photograph by Orel Young, Estherville, Iowa

water and marsh, with wooded areas of isthmus and peninsula between, once attracted great numbers of waterfowl. Here had been the nesting ground of the Trumpeter Swan and the Canada Goose. Early pioneers told of swans becoming so tame that they came up from the lakes into the barnyards. During recent years large concentrations of pelicans have stopped there both in spring and fall. A flock of such was estimated to consist of 700 birds one fall, while in the spring of 1954 there appeared to be at least twice that many. Many cormorants usually remain there for some time during the spring.

On the north and northeast side of Ingham Lake are located state-owned lands consisting of ponds and marshes and some woodland. To the south of Ingham Lake and east of High Lake is another similar, state-owned area. The north end of the large pond there is divided by a long, wooded peninsula extending through its center. Because of dry years the water stage is now low and some parts normally covered by water are now mud flats.

With conditions so favorable for waterfowl, waders, and shore-birds, anything may be looked for, but the appearance of such birds in recent years has been erratic. Yellow-headed blackbirds usually nest in large numbers and the two marsh wrens are common in some years. Warbler migrations have been very irregular in recent years. The Pileated Woodpecker and the Burrowing Owl have been recorded, but no claim is made for the presence of these at the present time.

The known history of the Ingham-High Lake areas began in the 1850's, with the first settler arriving in 1856. At that time it was part of the hunting grounds of Chief Sleepy Eye who, during some winters and until the spring of 1857, came down with his band from his village near Swan Lake in Nicollet County in Minnesota. He was not the only Indian chief who was attracted to these lakes, for later, in the 1880's and in 1896, an Indian band led by Chief Moon Eye made visits there to hunt and trap and to tap the large sugar-maples.

The largest stretch of timber, hemmed in by lakes, ponds and marshes, was known in pioneer times as Island Grove. A portion of this was still almost primeval forest until about 1920, with many great, centuries-old oaks remaining.

The little wooded island in Ingham Lake is historical. Members of the Spirit Lake expedition camped there on March 30, 1857, and found campfires still burning; 40 feet high in a cedar was a lookout made by Indians. There can be no doubt that it had been the camp of Sleepy Eye as he was departing for Minnesota. Many Indian arrows have been found on the island. But the once-verdant little island, lovely with large trees, shrubbery and wild flowers, has suffered untold injury from pasturing and tramping by stock—its high banks eroded and in places caved in.

If you wish to see what can be done with drained lake beds, visit Maple Hill 6 miles west of Armstrong on Highway 8. Just west of Maple Hill an access road leads to East Swan Lake. Drainage ditches traverse this public shooting area and provide abundant cover for rabbits and pheasants as well as a variety of sparrows. Most interesting, however, to birders and conservationists in general will be the comparatively recent plantings of trees of many varieties, including even a few conifers as well as man-made plum thickets and multiflora rose hedges.

Lying one mile directly west of this area (two or more miles around by road) is more of the Swan Lake development. If you care to see a really large, man-made, plum thicket, you should visit this area. It is new to birders but surely offers ideal cover for migrating warblers and just has to stop a Bell's Vireo now and then. During the last Christmas bird census this area provided a Horned Owl and a Harris's Sparrow.



Ryan Lake is another dry lake bed which provides ideal cover for up-land game. Shelter-belt plantings of Russian olive, wild plum and ash cross the area in three places, each being bordered by (one or more) almost unbroken lines of multiflora rose. During peak migrations these hedges are literally alive with native sparrows. A 3-acre sunflower patch in this sheltered place provided a luxurious diet in the past winter to Tufted Titmice, usually absent in this part of Iowa, as well as Goldfinches, and the usual winter residents—Chickadees, woodpeckers, and others. Who says English Sparrows don't eat sunflower seeds? All winter it was alive with the pests.

All the dry lake beds are fringed along the old shore-line by a variety of large trees. Many Indian relics have been found along these shore-lines. Among them are flint tools in great variety as well as war clubs and, rarely, the well-worn rocks used for grinding corn. One of these, in excellent condition, may be seen at the park. As you might guess from the name Fort Defiance and from what you have heard of the Spirit Lake Massacre, this part of Iowa is rich in Indian history. We plan to have available a detailed account of the local history at the time of the convention.

Please do not embarrass us by asking to see the Indians, Painted Buntings, or Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, but, like the fishermen, we can show you where the "big ones" got away.

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## SPRING CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT ESTHERVILLE, MAY 18 AND 19

Estherville, Iowa, will be the scene of the 1957 Spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The time is Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, and the headquarters point will be the Gardston Hotel.

The general pattern of the meeting will resemble that of last spring, held in Decorah, with two field trips. A short program Saturday afternoon will be followed by the business meeting. The annual banquet will be Saturday night at the Gardston Hotel and the compilation meeting will be at the luncheon following the field trip on Sunday.

We are very fortunate this year in being able to get Dr. Vernon D. E. Smith of Minneapolis as the banquet speaker. His theme will be "Wildlife in Alaska" and its presentation will be in the form of a lecture accompanying a moving picture. Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, now with Olin Mathison Co. of East Alton, Illinois will be on the Saturday afternoon program, presenting a talk on "Statistics and August Quail Inventories in Iowa."

A new feature of the Saturday afternoon session will be an open forum on bird experiences, led by Dr. George Hendrickson of Iowa State College. The Sunday compilation meeting will be conducted by Dr. Martin L. Grant of Iowa State Teachers College.

Estherville, lying near the western edge of the Mankato lobe of the Wisconsin drift, is almost the heart of "Iowa's prairie lakes country." Within a radius of 20 miles there are 16 major lakes and numerous small potholes and sloughs. The east fork of the Des Moines River rises in Tuttle Lake 20 miles to the northeast, and the west fork rising in Minnesota's Lake Shetek flows through the town.

This region has the only stands of native wild rice in the state and its variety and numbers of migrating waterfowl and shore-birds are not to be exceeded elsewhere in Iowa. The area has two unique stands of climax prairie and the well-timbered hill along the river provides almost perfect habitat for warblers. Mark this trip on your calendar as a "must".—BRUCE F. STILES.



## THE 1956 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

Compiled by FRED J. PIERCE

Participation in the Christmas bird census in Iowa reached an all-time high in 1956, with 210 observers in the field and reports coming from 22 stations. A number of observers went on two or more censuses (Dennis Carter went on four!), which is an indication of the enjoyment to be derived from this form of outdoor sport.

Davenport was highest in the number of species (66) and observers (52); in 1955 their figures were 72 species, 41 observers. The 1955 Iowa census list was the highest since we have published the censuses (90 species). The census just taken was nearly as high, with 37 species and the formidable total of 67,840 individual birds.

The tabulation of the winter bird trips in Iowa stores up a great deal of valuable information, with many data available for future years' comparison and study, besides making interesting reading. We recommend it as an accurate index to the winter bird life of our state since so many regions are represented.

There is not space here to comment on the many important records contained in the state-wide census. There are numerous interesting items to be especially noted, such as the numbers of wintering Carolina Wrens, the large number of Starlings, and the presence of Song Sparrows at 18 of the 22 stations. Among the rather scarce or unusual birds, 17 species were reported at one station only, and 13 species at two different stations. Eleven species were reported from all stations. These were: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, and Tree Sparrow. (As an incidental bit of statistics, the Editor worked a total of 13 hours in tabulating the censuses and typing this article. This does not include the further time necessary to correct the printer's proof.)

Data on place, time, weather and the observers who took the 1956 census are given below. Included are additional notes on the unusual species marked by the asterisk in the tables.

1. AMES (7½-mile radius centering on the Iowa State College campanile, including Brookside Park, college arboretum, college golf course, Horticulture Farm, Izaak Walton Park, Pammel Woods, and areas along Squaw Creek and Skunk River; deciduous woodland 38%, open country 25%, brushland 24%, feeding stations 9%, conifer groves 4%). Jan. 5; 7:45 a. m. to 4:45 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 14° to 28°; wind SW, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground bare; streams mostly frozen. Total party-hours, 12 on foot, 4 by car, 1½ at feeders; total party-miles, 18½ on foot, 57 by car. Observers (6) in four parties. Mrs. Percy Carr, Dennis L. Carter, Mrs. N. H. Curry, A. J. Englehorn, Mrs. Gerald Fox, Mrs. Geo. O. Hendrickson.

2. BACKBONE STATE PARK (Delaware County). Dec. 23; 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Overcast and dark; temp. 35° at start, 29° at return; snowing or light rain most of the day; brisk NW wind which came up early in afternoon; 1 in. old snow on ground; about 2 miles on foot, 60 by car; trip included an auto ride from Winthrop to the park and return by a different route, with side trips on various roads; roadside list included in the census. Observers (4) together. M. L. Jones, Loren Jones, F. J. Pierce, Paul Pierce.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field.

3. CEDAR FALLS (Snag Creek, Beaver Creek, Union Bridge, Wyth Park, Leland's Pasture; river-bottom forest 60%, upland forest 5%, savannas 10%, fields and prairies 25%). Dec. 29; 8:15 a. m.-12:30 p. m., 1:15-4:45 p. m. Cloudy

with occasional light snow; temp. 30°; wind E, 1-5 m.p.h.; 1-4 in. snow on ground; ponds frozen, rivers and creeks 50% open. Two parties, one group of two all day, another pair in a. m. only; also 4 individuals watching separate groups of bird-feeders. Total party-hours, 12 (9 on foot, 3 in car); total party-miles, 75 (19 on foot, 56 by car). Martin L. Grant, Russell Hays, Margaret Knoll, Ruth Mahon, Jean Martin, Eleanor O'Connell, Betty Reninger, Beulah Rugg.

Northern Shrike and Eastern Meadowlarks were observed closely enough to be certain as to species.

4. CEDAR RAPIDS (Bever, Shaver, Ellis and Riverside parks, Cedar Lake, Cedar River, Indian Creek, roadsides to Fairfax). Dec. 30; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Overcast in a. m., clearing at noon; temp. 28°-42°; wind NW, light; 2 in. snow on ground; 9 miles on foot, 90 miles by car. Observers (18) in three parties. Emma Doornink, Mrs. Lucille Elson, Dr. and Mrs. Karl E. Goellner, John Goellner, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Huey and daughter, Dr. Alfred W. Meyer, Cynthia Pattee, Steven Pattee, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, James Risk, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robt. Vane, Myra Willis.

Broad-winged Hawks were seen by Dr. Karl Goellner and Myra Willis, who felt certain of their identification.

5. CLINTON (7½-mile radius centering on Iowa bank of Mississippi River 7 miles north of Clinton-Fulton Bridge, including Lock 13 and Spring Lake Refuge in Illinois and Eagle Point Park in Iowa; open farmland 45%, deciduous woodland 30%, river shoreline 10%, coniferous woodland 10%, residential area 5%). Dec. 29; 6:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Overcast with snow flurries; temp. 22° to 30°; wind NW, 0 to 5 m.p.h.; 1 in. snow on ground; river 25% open. Total party-hours, 16 (5 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 162 (7 on foot, 155 by car). Observers (7) in two parties. Louis Blevens, Fred Leshner, Maurice Leshner, James Lewis, Edwin Meyer, Peter Petersen, Jr., Maurice Ward.

Field Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were seen by Maurice Ward at close range and in good light.

6. DAVENPORT (7½-mile radius centered at Memorial Bridge tollgate). Dec. 30; 6 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Overcast, clearing in afternoon; temp. 24° to 47°; wind SW-S-SE, 9-29 m.p.h.; ½ in. snow on ground, melting in afternoon; river 80% open. Total party-hours, 64 on foot, 39 by car; total party-miles, 103 on foot, 499 by car. Observers (52) in 18 parties. A Lang Bailey, Lewis Blevens, Harry Carl, Fred Cook, Dorothy Cowley, Dale Dickinson, Leo Doering, Clark Ehlers, Elton Fawks, Patty Fawks, Don Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gold, Ivan Graham, Jeanette Graham, Dick Greer, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Greer, Ted Greer, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hazard, Mr. and Mrs. James Hodges, Frances Johnson, Dave Krause, James Krause, Jim Lewis, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Alice Mattson, Jerry McConoughey, Edwin Meyer, Don O'Hern, Pete Petersen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Don Price, Irma Romans, Joe Rowley, Tom Rowley, Florence Rush, Paul Salstrom, Dennis Sheets, Cuz Stewart, Kent Stewart, Don Swensson, Al Tate, Bill Tate, Ralph Tate, Bob Trial, Bengt Von-Rosen, John Warren, William Wulf, Fredricka Youngert.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field. The large number of Bald Eagles reported was considered quite unusual. The majority of the birds were concentrated along the shore of the Mississippi just west of Sunset Park, Rock Island. The figure of 85 reported represents careful checking by the Census Committee. Southerly winds, an open channel, and recent seining in the river providing trash fish were apparent factors for the concentration. The Varied Thrush had been a regular visitor to the yard of Fred Cook of Rock Island. The identification was later verified by Bailey, Dick Greer, Mr.

and Mrs. Ted Greer, Elton Fawks, Lewis, Trial, and Petersen. The bird, a male, was observed by all within 20 feet.

7. DECORAH (7½-mile radius centering on NE corner Sec. 24-99-8; Upper Iowa River, Canoe and Bear creeks, Twin Springs, Decorah, Highlandville; river and creek bottoms 40%, open fields 40%, brush and timber 15%, city 5%). Dec. 29; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. Cloudy with snow flurries; temp. 21° to 29°; wind E to NE, 1-3 m.p.h.; ground bare to 3 in. snow; river mostly frozen, fresh-water creeks open. Total party-hours, 30 (24 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 151 (27 on foot, 124 by car. Observers (21) in four parties. Vernon Bahr, Mr. and Mrs. Alden Bauder, Marietta Bauder, Maybelle Brown, Bob Daubendiek, Andy Daubendiek, Nanette Forde, Angie Henning, Mrs. B. T. Henning, Darrell Henning, Tom Henning, Dr. Sherman Hoslett, James Lange, Mr. and Mrs. V. Moe, Arthur J. Palas, Fritz R. Palas, Robert Pfister, Joyce Schissel, Margaret Walker.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field. The two Field Sparrows were observed at 20-ft. distance, by Maybelle Brown, Marietta Bauder, R. Pfister; head markings, bill and breast carefully observed. The number of Belted Kingfishers is accounted for by the many fresh-water creeks in the area.

8. DES MOINES (Impounding Reservoir, Greenwood and Ashworth parks, Brown's Woods, Walnut Woods State Park, Pine Hill Cemetery, Camp Dodge, Dove Woods, Crocker Woods, Wakonsa, Lovington, Morningstar, Flint Acres, Waterworks Park, Grey's Lake, Glendale Cemetery, Pioneer Park; deciduous woodland 60%, open fields 25%, water and riverside 10%, coniferous woodland 5%). Dec. 22; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy, with fog, mist and light rain; ground bare; bad weather made birding very difficult. Total party-hours, 37¾ (24¾ on foot, 13 by car; total party-miles, 124 (24 on foot, 100 by car). Observers (23) in five parties. Albert Berkowitz, Mrs. Ruth Binsfeld, Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Carl Brown, Woodward Brown, Ruth Chapman, Philip Clampitt, Mrs. Frank Eyerly, Mrs. Gladys Haskell, Joe Kennedy, Gary Kline, Mrs. Russell Nicholson, John Norton, Dr. Robert Norton, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Lee Roy Porter, Irene Smith, Bruce Stiles, Floy Vest, Mary Ellen Warters, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, Lynn Willcockson.

9. DUBUQUE (Linwood and Mt. Calvary cemeteries, Eagle Point Park, Mississippi River sloughs and Sinope Creek area in Wisconsin; open fields 10%, coniferous woodlands 15%, deciduous woodlands 40%, river sloughs 35%). Dec. 30; 7:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Cloudy with some fog, then clearing; temp. 22° to 32°; wind S. 10 m.p.h.; 2 in. old snow on ground; river open below dam. Total hours, 8½ (7½ on foot, 1 by car); total miles, 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car). Observers (6) in one party. George Crossley, Beverly Datisman, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Lampe, Phyllis Shultz, Imelda Wunderlich.

10. FAIRFIELD (Waterworks and Old Settlers Park, Evergreen Cemetery, Walton Lake Club Grounds, wooded area south of Fairfield Golf Club, and parts of city). Dec. 30; 1:30 to 5 p. m. Clear; temp. 40° to 45°; windy; ground bare. Observers (9) in two parties. Bob Davis, Fayne Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Taylor, Dave Turner, Dr. Floyd W. Von Ohlen, Jim Watson, Leland Whitaker, Tom Whitaker.

Mockingbird had been observed for some time near the Leland Whitaker home in Fairfield, and again made its appearance on day of census.

11. FORT DEFIANCE STATE PARK (Emmet County). Dec. 28; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. Semi-cloudy; temp. 28° at start, same at return; raw wind; snow only in protected areas and drifts; water areas covered by thick ice for two weeks or more; 4 miles on foot, car driven to lake areas. Observers (4) together. Dennis Carter, Loren Jones, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones.



12. HUMBOLDT COUNTY (7½-mile radius centering on SE corner Sec. 33, Grove Township, including Hardy, Humboldt, Thor, and areas along East and West Des Moines rivers; open farmland and fields, 48%, deciduous woodland 27%, farm yards 15%, drainage ditches 10%). Dec. 31; 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 30° to 42°; wind NW, 2-10 m. p.h.; ground bare except for crusted snow in sheltered areas. Total party-hours, 7 on foot, 5 by car; total party-miles, 10 on foot, 64 by car. Three observers in two parties in the field, and nine observers watching feeders all day. Observers at feeders were not included in figuring habitat percentages and party-hours. Mrs. Evelyn Bair, Mrs. Carrie Carlson, Dennis L. Carter, Mrs. Forrest DeGroote, Mrs. Anthony Gruble, Mrs. Earl Leland, Mrs. George McCollough, Carrie Olmstead, Catherine Osia, Myrtle Parsons, Mrs. Gilbert Ruse, Mrs. Carl Vought.

The species of Shrike seen was not identified. Mrs. Carl Vought observed the Sapsucker in her yard near the West Des Moines River in Humboldt.

13. IOWA CITY (City Park and river bottoms, Lake Macbride State Park; open farm lands 45%, deciduous woodlands 45%, coniferous woodlands 10%). Dec. 29; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy, with snow flurries all day; temp. 22° to 34°; wind SE, 0-3 m.p.h.; 2 in. fresh snow on ground; river partly frozen but very low; no ponds. Total hours, 7 on foot, 3 by car; total party-miles, 10 on foot, 50 by car. Observers (6) in one party. F. W. Kent, Dr. and Mrs. P. P. Laude, Dr. R. W. Loehning, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart McDonald

A two-year-old roost area in the city produced the large count on Starlings and House Sparrows.

14. LAMONI (parts of three sections west of city, campus of Graceland College, and Nine Eagles State Park). Dec. 28; 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Snow flurries; temp. 30°; cold wind. Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Donald Gillaspey, Pauline Hodges, Mrs. Dorothy Rauch, Mrs. Ralph Silver, Cecil Teale.

The species of Shrike and Meadowlark were not determined in the field.

15. MOUNT VERNON (12-mile circle around city, including Ivanhoe, Dark Hollow in Palisades-Kepler State Park). Dec. 29; 7:45 a. m. to 4 p. m. less 15 minutes for lunch. (Information on weather and ground conditions not included.—Ed.) J. Harold Ennis.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field.

16. OTTUMWA (City, and eastern part of Wapello County). Jan. 1; 9:30-11:30 a. m., 2 to 5 p. m. Clear; temp. 12°-18°; wind NW, 8 m.p.h.; 3 miles on foot, 65 by car. Mrs. Orville T. Upp.

17. PINE HOLLOW STATE PARK (Dubuque County). Dec. 29; 7:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Cloudy with fine snow; temp. 18° to 28°; no wind; 1 in. old snow and 2 in. new snow on ground; about 4½ miles on foot, 30 by car, including trip from Farley to the park and return. George E. Crossley.

18. PINE LAKE, ELDORA (Roadside and adjacent fields). Dec. 27. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 10° to 31°; wind SW to W, very light; 1 mile on foot, 37 by car. Mrs. Harold B. Brown, Mrs. Eldon Hasbrook.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field.

19. SIOUX CITY (War Eagles Monument Woods, confluence area of Missouri and Big Sioux rivers, Lower Riverside woods, Gordon Drive, Big Sioux River road to Highway 12, Stone Park, Logan Park, Graceland Cemetery, Brown's Lake woods, Morningside Nurseries, hilly woodland near Trinity College, Half Moon Lake area, North Ravine area; hilly woodland and parks 40%, wooded streams 15%, coniferous cemeteries 10%, open fields and marshes 25%, city and suburban 10%). Dec. 30; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear; temp. 13° to 51°; wind SW, 10 to 15 m.p.h. in afternoon; patches of snow and ice on ground in protected areas; lakes frozen over; Big Sioux open from Missouri

(Continued on page 18)

	1. Ames	2. Backbone State Park	3. Cedar Falls	4. Cedar Rapids	5. Clinton	6. Davenport	7. Decorah	8. Des Moines	9. Dubuque	10. Fairfield	11. Fort Defiance State Park	12. Humboldt County	13. Iowa City	14. Lamoni	15. Mount Vernon	16. Ottumwa	17. Pine Hollow State Park	18. Pine Lake	19. Sioux City	20. Vinton	21. Waterloo	22. Webster City
Great Blue Heron						2													1			
Mallard			7	340	323	135	801	3500						10000					1			
Black Duck					14	6		3														
Pintail				1	5									1								
Redhead				1		1																
Ring-necked Duck				4		2																
Canvas-back																						
Lesser Scaup				3		8		2														
American Golden-eye				2	2	269	5	4	1													
Buffle-head																						
Old-Squaw				1		2																
White-winged Scoter																						
Ruddy Duck						1		5														
Hooded Merganser																						
American Merganser						3																
Red-breast'd Merganser				1	212		3	3	17													
Sharp-shinned Hawk					2																	
Cooper's Hawk			1		1																	
Red-tailed Hawk	2			5	28	46	7	1	1	4			6	5		3	3		2			
Red-shouldered Hawk			1	1	1	13		3	1				1	3					9	1	4	1
Broad-winged Hawk				2																		
Rough-legged Hawk		1		2	3	8	1						1	1			2			1	6	
Bald Eagle						84			2													
Marsh Hawk					11	5							6	3		1						
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	2	1		7		4				1	1	2	2	1			3			
Ruffed Grouse																						
Bob-white	8			16	47	60	4						21	12					20		20	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	54	24	7	31	36	1			73	57				11		17	102	37	42	51	
Coot				3				5														
Killdeer				0		2			1							1						
Wilson's Snipe							1															
Herring Gull					3	866																
Ring-billed Gull																						
Mourning Dove		3		5	34	66	2	27					31	22			9	6	2	1	1	1
Screech Owl				1		1																
Great Horned Owl	1		1	1		7		3		1	3		3	2			1					
Barred Owl		1	3	3		3																
Long-eared Owl				5	5																	
Short-eared Owl			1			3							3									
Saw-whet Owl													1									
Belted Kingfisher			4	2	1	5	14	4	2						1							
Flicker (Yellow-sh)	2		4	2	9	18	1	17		5		7	4	3			1	3	2	11	5	1
Pileated Woodpecker		1							1													
Red-bellied Woodpecker																						
Red-head'd Woodpecker	8	1	17	9	9	52	20	20	3	4	2	4	6	3	1	3	5	2	9	1	13	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						9			1					1					2			

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

17

	1. Ames	2. State Park	3. Cedar Falls	4. Cedar Rapids	5. Clinton	6. Davenport	7. Decorah	8. Des Moines	9. Dubuque	10. Fairfield	11. Fort Defiance	12. Humboldt County	13. Iowa City	14. Lamoni	15. Mount Vernon	16. Ottumwa	17. Pine Hollow	18. Pine Lake	19. Sioux City	20. Vinton	21. Waterloo	22. Webster City
Hairy Woodpecker	8	2	16	13	8	43	13	12	5	2	2	9	9	1	2	1	1	2	1	19	3	3
Downy Woodpecker	23	4	38	24	22	127	32	62	10	2	2	5	21	16	5	8	6	5	11	49	2	34
Horned Lark			13	13	3	154	42	24	2	2	25	7	41	61	4	20	4	5	11	8	5	5
Blue Jay	6	3	37	17	25	152	42	24	5	12	12	7	3	5	7	4	5	2	6	6	12	1
Crow	11	39	230	55	109	867	100	82	3	12	22	107	19	14	9	12	13	40	240	16	105	120
Chickadee	92	5	131	75	36	232	102	156	8	6	6	36	68	20	28	7	18	7	22	240	7	51
Tufted Titmouse	22	3	5	21	19	130	23	60	6	3	4	4	23	6	5	5	5	8	5	8	7	1
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	28	9	47	36	11	113	49	64	1	3	5	32	21	8	4	4	5	6	36	5	14	13
Red-breasted Nuthatch																						
Brown Creeper	1		5	1	2	7	3	5				2							5			
Winter Wren	1					3	2	3							1		2		1		1	
Carolina Wren	2			3	5	2		2														
Mockingbird										1												
Robin	2					4	1	3										1	1			
Varied Thrush						1																
Bluebird								1														
Gold-crowned Kinglet	1			3	6	24		1	2	2									12			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1																	
Cedar Waxwing		2				35																
Northern Shrike			1									1	3									
Loggerhead Shrike														4								3
Starling	322	73	208	5000	147	3385	185	508	14	22	77	207	6059	52	49	90	35	125	301	12	77	177
House Sparrow	711	110	428	425	593	2134	884	735	61	42	110	405	5230	145	345	95	102	300	626	58	100	91
Eastern Meadowlark		8	22		4	23	5					2	17	32	13	7		32		14	22	
Western Meadowlark									1													2
Red-winged Blackbird						1015								35	3				1			
Rusty Blackbird																						
Bronzed Grackle			5			23																
Cardinal	47	9	69	54	65	288	285	114	12	9	4	14	56	23	9	24	15	22	45	5	1	15
Purple Finch			3		3	2	2															
Goldfinch	15	118	3	20	45	55	5	108	4	5	3	13	10	78		5		1	354		32	42
State-colored Junco	274	33	154	258	260	1148	113	114	42	80	10	21	82	65	27	65	25	44	201	11	62	23
Tree Sparrow	47	60	101	360	946	1369	366	136	98	33	83	33	203	135	51	100	33	26	393	58	100	5
Field Sparrow					1		2															
Harris's Sparrow	1							2			1	1		7				1	43			2
Wh.-crowned Sparrow						6								5	5							
Gambel's Sparrow														3								
Wh.-throated Sparrow						7													10			
Swamp Sparrow	11		3	13	8	104	12	35	1	3	1	2	16				5	2	1	1	2	5
Song Sparrow																						
Lapland Longspur										150	175			39								
Number of Species	26	22	31	42	39	66	32	38	27	19	21	25	37	30	24	19	22	25	32	18	28	24
Number of Observers	6	4	8	18	7	52	21	23	6	9	4	12	6	6	1	1	1	2	13	1	7	2

See data under station in body of article.  
Total Iowa list ..... 87 species.



to power plant, and Missouri River open in places. Total hours afield, 29; total miles, 172 (15 on foot, 157 by car). Observers (13) in seven parties. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Barrett, P. B. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Raws Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh, Bob Nickolson, L. J. Nickolson, Dr. J. L. Schott, Dr. A. C. Starry, Gertrude Weaver.

20. VINTON (area 4 miles in diameter; farm groves, fields, roadsides, creek pasture, feeding station). Dec. 26; 8 a. m. to 12, 1 to 4 p. m. Clear; temp. 28°-42°; wind SW, 10 m.p.h.; light covering of new snow on ground in morning, muddy by afternoon; 3 miles on foot, 12 by car. Mrs. John Strawn, morning, muddy by afternoon; 3 mi. on foot, 12 by car. Mrs. John Strawn, Jr.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field.

21. WATERLOO (northern Black Hawk County, Crane Creek, Wapsipinicon River north to and including Sweet Marsh near Tripoli; farm land 50%, deciduous woodland 50%). Dec. 26; 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 20° to 40°; wind NW, 0-10 m.p.h.; ground snow-covered; ponds frozen; running water in Wapsipinicon River. Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Russell Hays, Jack Heifner, Roger Moon, David Sage, Diane Sage, Evan Sage.

Meadowlark species not determined in the field.

22. WEBSTER CITY (7½-mile radius centering on Des Moines and 2nd sts., including Graceland Cemetery, Kendall Young Park, areas along Boone River and roadsides; deciduous woodland 55%, open farm land and fields 38%, cemetery 7%). Dec. 30; 7:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 29° to 50°; wind W. 5-15 m.p.h.; ground bare except for crusted snow in sheltered areas; Boone River about 30% open. Total party-hours, 7 on foot, 3½ by car; total party-miles, 10 on foot, 65 by car. Observers not together. Dennis L. Carter, Heber P. Johnson.

Johnson found one Loggerhead Shrike along a road and observed it for nearly a half hour; noted completely black bill, unbarred breast, and that the mask met over the bill. Carter found two more shrikes but did not see them well enough to determine the species.

#### ADDITIONAL BIRD NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CENSUSES

Cedar Rapids.—Two additional species were recorded by Bird Club members on the day of the census but outside the mileage limits. They were Great Horned Owl and Meadowlark.

Des Moines.—Additional species seen during Christmas count period but not on the actual census: Pintail, Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark, Brown Thrasher, Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle, Swamp Sparrow.

Dubuque.—Seen in the area on Dec. 23 when six other observers were rained in after three hours: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin.

Fort Defiance State Park.—No hawks were found on the census trip, but two Rough-legged Hawks were seen in the area on the previous day. Tufted Titmice are rare in this part of Iowa; the four on the census report were trapped and one new one banded before the start on the census hike. Five had been banded during the previous fall. Thus at least six individuals had been coming to the feeders up to the date of the census. Three more were observed at a sunflower patch at Ryan Lake two weeks before but could not be found on the census trip.

Lamoni.—Other birds seen in the area during census week: Great Blue Heron, 1 at Nine Eagles State Park, Dec. 25; Mourning Dove, 2 at Nine Eagles, Dec. 25; Purple Finch, 5 on Jim Smith farm west of town, Jan. 1; Arctic Towhee, 1 on Jim Smith farm, Jan. 1. Unusual amount of white on wings of the towhee was particularly noted.

Mount Vernon.—Seen on Dec. 28: a Bald Eagle at Palisades Park; a Flicker at Ennis feeding station next to the house.

## BIRDS SEEN AT THE UNION'S FALL MEETING

By MARTIN L. GRANT  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, written up in the previous issue of Iowa Bird Life, was held September 30, 1956, at Wyth (formerly Josh Higgins) Park, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

While no formal tabulation of the species seen was made, the writer kept a list, with numbers of individuals noted, of the 46 species he observed, to which are added in the list below 13 species reported by others, (presumably one individual each, but here given without numbers). Undoubtedly several other species, which did not happen to be called to the writer's attention, were noted by Union members.

The time spent on the field trips was from 9:30 a.m.-12:30, in Wyth Park, and from 2:00-4:30 p.m. along Snag Creek. The sky was clear, the wind southeast, and the temperature rose during the day from 42° to 60°.

Great Blue Heron	3	Wood Thrush	1
Green Heron	1	Olive-backed Thrush	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Bluebird	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Pigeon Hawk	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Cedar Waxwing	100
Spotted Sandpiper	3	Starling	5
Mourning Dove	6	Blue-headed Vireo	5
Black-billed Cuckoo		Tennessee Warbler	
Great Horned Owl		Orange-crowned Warbler	
Chimney Swift		Nashville Warbler	10
Belted Kingfisher	1	Myrtle Warbler	5
Flicker	12	Grinnell's Water-thrush	
Pileated Woodpecker		American Redstart	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	House Sparrow	50
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Eastern Meadowlark	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Redwing	200
Downy Woodpecker	3	Bronzed Grackle	400
Phoebe	3	Scarlet Tanager	
Blue Jay	12	Cardinal	1
Crow	6	Goldfinch	150
Black-capped Chickadee	25	Red-eyed Towhee	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	Slate-colored Junco	3
Brown Creeper	1	Tree Sparrow	1
House Wren	1	White-crowned Sparrow	
Winter Wren		White-throated Sparrow	100
Short-billed Marsh Wren		Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Catbird		Swamp Sparrow	
Brown Thrasher	3	Song Sparrow	1
Robin	100		

## GENERAL NOTES

**Bird Census at a Feeding Station.**—The following list was made at our bird feeders in the town of Coggon on December 30, 1956. Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 4; Chickadee, 4; Starling, 20; House Sparrow, 20; Cardinal, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 4.—WALTER PIKE, Coggon, Iowa.

**Winter Birds near Wheatland.**—About three hours in the woods and short drives into the country near Wheatland during Christmas week produced these 25 species: Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasant, Barred Owl, Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter and Carolina Wrens, Starling, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Tree and Song Sparrows.—C. ESTHER COPP, Wheatland, Iowa.

**Winter Notes from Whittier.**—We feed the birds in winter and we know of eight other families who put out feed for birds near here. At our feeder during the past winter we had four Tufted Titmice, two Chickadees, two White-breasted Nuthatches, two Downy, one Hairy and one Red-bellied Woodpecker, five Cardinals, a number of Blue Jays and juncos. One junco which was seen during the past winter and the winter before had a black head, brownish back and buffy sides. A flock of perhaps 100 Tree Sparrows were within sight of the house. One White-throated Sparrow was first seen on January 12, 1957, and it stayed for a few days while the snow was deep. One or two coveys of Bob-white were seen near here, and about 25 Meadowlarks were observed on February 3.—MRS. STANLEY ATHERTON, Whittier, Iowa.

**Waterloo Notes.**—On January 6, 1957, I had the thrill of seeing my first winter Field Sparrow in many years. I saw the bird twice, the second time in bright sunlight at a distance of only 10 feet. Another feature of my hike on this date was the surprising number of Tufted Titmice—at least 20. On January 19, with Dr. C. W. Robertson I saw a Bald Eagle over the Cedar River at Wyth Park. It was a beautiful bird in adult plumage and we had a fine view of it. Not more than five minutes later we had an equally good look at a Great Horned Owl.

February 24 was a very lively day birdwise at the Black Hawk Creek area. The ground was covered with Tree Sparrows, Juncos, Cardinals, and Chickadees, Goldfinches, Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches and woodpeckers were in nearby trees. In this active group I found a tan-plumaged Harris's Sparrow, which I believe is my first winter record here. It seems likely that it wintered in the tract, for I had seen several of the birds there in the fall. Cardinals seemed abundant during the past winter. I counted 22 in one flock in February as they streamed out of a brushy area; the largest previous flock was 12.—RUSSELL HAYS, 325 Franklin St., Waterloo, Iowa.

**Bird Observations at Marble Rock.**—The year 1956 gave me a number of interesting bird records. Twice during January I saw a small flock of Snow Buntings. A flock of 214 Blue and Snow Geese spent several days near a water-filled slough in this area in the middle of April. On May 3, I saw four Willets along the Shellrock River south of the bridge in Marble Rock.

I moved in 1956—from the farm that had been my main area of bird watching for the past 20 years, to a home in Marble Rock. The trees and cover along the Shellrock River provide good bird-watching areas. It was interesting to note the variations in the numbers of various species. I found Red-headed Woodpeckers more common than Flickers near my new home, while the reverse had been true on the farm. Purple Finches, Cedar Waxwings and Golden-crowned Kinglets were also more numerous during the migration periods, and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen in larger numbers than on the farm. I missed the sparrows of the open country, but the total number of species seen compared favorably with my lists of previous years. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Cardinals were welcome additions to my winter feeding area.—PEARL KNOOP, Marble Rock, Iowa.



**First Authentic Record of Raven in Iowa.**—One of the aerial acrobats of the wilderness was mistaken for a Crow and accidentally killed on October 7, 1956, by Art Weik of Spirit Lake (exact location: Potter's Slough, Section 23, Superior Township, Dickinson County, Iowa). Thanks to the alertness of Dr. Mary Roberts and our Editor, this specimen was obtained and delivered to Jack W. Musgrove, Museum Director of the State Dept. of History and Archives, Des Moines, who listed it as the first authentic record of a Raven recovered in Iowa. Mr. Musgrove furnished this information: "I am convinced that this bird is the Northern Raven, *Corvus corax principalis*, the specimen showing the following measurements: Length, 25¾ in.; wing, 17 in.; bill, 3 in.; extended wing, 51 in.—which puts this bird well within the measurement range of *principalis*. I am sorry I could not record the weight of the bird, but after that length of time, it had lost considerable weight through evaporation."

In about 1952, this writer positively identified the remains (beak, skull, and a few remaining feathers) of another Raven then in the possession of Frank Marnette (now deceased) who reported finding the dead bird in the vicinity of Spirit Lake. Writings of DuMont and Anderson indicate the



COMPARISON OF SIZE OF COMMON CROW AND THE RAVEN SHOT IN  
DICKINSON COUNTY

The specimens are held by Jack W. Musgrove, Museum Director of State Dept. of History & Archives, Des Moines. Photograph by Jim Sherman, reprinted from "Iowa Conservationist," February, 1957, page 107.



ART WEIK (LEFT) AND DALE LUNDSTROM HOLDING THE RAVEN WHICH WEIK  
SHOT OCTOBER 7, 1956  
(Photograph furnished by Spirit Lake "Beacon")

species absent from Iowa for 50-70 years, and mention some of the early records as questionable. Perhaps Ravens are again occasionally visiting the Hawkeye State, and ornithologists should brush up on their field identification of the species in contrast to the common Crow. The harsh and raucous voice, the ridiculous antics of the inquisitive buffoons, and their superb playfulness in air currents endear the Raven to earthbound admirers.—JAMES G. SIEH, Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

**Crabapples Attractive to Birds in Waterworks Park, Des Moines.**—The extreme southeast portion of Waterworks Park in Des Moines, to the extent of about 150 by 400 yards, is very largely evergreens, grass and flowering crab-apple trees. It is claimed that the area contains practically all the known species of flowering crabapple. Many of these bear fruit varying in size from little larger than a good-sized pea to that of the commercial varieties or larger. A large number of these apples remain on the trees all winter or accumulate on the ground and are attractive to wintering birds. The smaller varieties of apples are swallowed whole; some birds eat only the pulp of the larger kinds, and others extract the seeds and eat only these. Pine Grosbeaks and Crossbills are among the species which have been found here in years past, so we check this area frequently.

On January 26, 1957, Albert Berkowitz and I visited the area during a light snowfall with temperature 10°F. In a short time we flushed a Barred Owl from the evergreens, found a Robin feeding on one of the smaller varieties of apple, and a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker hammering on some of the larger apples. Two Buteos were perched nearby and, as we were leaving, an Accipiter, probably a Cooper's Hawk, flew across our path. There have been several winter records for the sapsucker in Polk County and fruit is one of its summer foods, but this incident seemed out of the ordinary.—WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

**A Late Orange-crowned Warbler.**—On October 29, 1956, I was watching a Golden-crowned Kinglet in the bird bath, when an Orange-crowned Warbler flew down for a splash. During the course of the day this warbler alternately splashed in the water and fed on the tops of the fugi or spider chrysanthemums nearby. At this time of year these plants usually are host to numerous aphides. On checking numerous published migration records for this species in this area, I find that the above record seems to be the latest.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Red-shafted (Hybrid) Flicker at Cedar Falls.**—A newcomer to our window-shelf feeder during the past winter was a Red-shafted Flicker—not often seen so far east of the Great Plains. His first swift landing and departure left me wondering just what I had seen, but in successive visits I was able to pick out the identifying marks. The salmon-red of the “whiskers” and of the wing- and tail-linings was unmistakable, and also the red shafts of the stiff black tail feathers. Hybrids are quite common in the midwest, and a red, V-shaped, nape patch indicated hybridization with the Yellow-shafted Flicker. He seemed to be strictly a cold-weather visitor, for in the two-week period during which we saw him on six different days, the ground was covered with our heaviest snows of the winter and temperature ranged from  $-18^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}$  on the dates of his appearance. On January 27, 1957, with temperature at  $-4^{\circ}$ , my husband and I watched from inside our kitchen window as he ate a generous breakfast of suet from the piece we had fastened to the trunk of an elm about 6 feet from the house. It proved to be his last visit.—MRS. JOHN L. O'CONNELL, 2509 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

**Sparrow Notes from Southern Iowa.**—The fall of 1956 seems to have brought an unusual number of sparrows to southern Iowa. Leconte's Sparrows were under observation daily at Home Pond from October 20 to October 26. On November 8, a boy brought to school a dead one which he had picked up in his yard.

A Tree Sparrow banded March 4, 1956, returned to our trap December 27, 1956, after spending the summer somewhere in the far North.

I have banded a total of 80 White-crowned Sparrows—44 of these in October, 31 in November, and 5 in December. One White-crown repeated on Christmas Day and two came back on December 26. I have tramped the woods near my place for ten years and this is the first year I have ever observed either White-crowned or Harris's sparrows in December. Two new Harris's Sparrows were captured and banded on Christmas Day, and one banded November 27, 1956, repeated on Christmas. A total of 61 Harris's Sparrows were banded in the fall of 1956.

One of the most interesting nests discovered in 1956 was that of a Grasshopper Sparrow on May 31. It was on the ground in a clover field. On June 8, the mowers moved in to harvest the crop. I put up a stake and placed a galvanized pail on top of the stake so the nest would not be disturbed. Only three of the five eggs (white, speckled with red-brown) hatched. The heat of the following week was terrific, and because of the extreme drought the vegetation was very scant. As a result one fledgling smothered in the nest. The other two grew to maturity and on the evening of June 15, I put bands on them. Even though they were only seven days old, they would not stay in the nest. The mother bird kept hopping from clover bale to clover bale giving her insect-like buzz. I'm sure she was telling them to take flight. Another nest was discovered on July 21, but the eggs disappeared after a few days.—MRS. W. C. DE LONG, Lamoni, Iowa.



**Winter Notes from Western Iowa.**—On December 26, 1956, a springlike day with temperatures in the 50's and with even a few large wasps flying about, I started on a field trip down the valley of the West Fork of the Little Sioux River; later I went over into the Little Sioux River valley proper in northern Monona County. I found the hawk and owl population scarce and the birds hard to find. My first hawk was a Pigeon Hawk near Hornick, and later during the day I saw one individual of each of the following species, Screech Owl, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Sparrow, and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Small flocks of Meadowlarks were seen during the day, and one lone bird favored me with his loud, cheery song—very springlike, I thought. In another field I noted a mixed flock of Starlings and Meadowlarks, with the former constantly badgering the latter, much to my disgust. A Northern Shrike was flushed from successive perches about five times. This bored him and he took off for the middle of a set of farm buildings where, to my amusement, I saw the extreme respect many birds hold for this little killer. The minute this rascal landed on a building, a small cloud of several hundred English Sparrows, Starlings, and barnyard pigeons took to the air and circled around in confusion.

Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs were found in small numbers. One small flock of Redpolls was observed as I crossed the "Bottoms." When I reached the timbered areas of the Little Sioux River near Grant Center and Ticonic my list picked up quickly with Townsend's Solitaire, Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Robins, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and many more of the common birds. Twenty-eight species were listed, not including English Sparrows and Starlings.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Townsend's Solitaire in Monona County.**—Philip A. DuMont, in "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa", 1934, placed Townsend's Solitaire on the hypothetical list, and rightly so, as this species had not been reported for Iowa. To me the challenge has always been to pin down some of the western species here in extreme western Iowa. We know they must enter our state from time to time. M. L. Jones has placed the Painted Bunting on the state faunal list. We have found Blue Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting in this area, and have reported Say's Phoebe and Rocky Mountain Grosbeak at our very doorstep. It is with good reason that I like to check the timbered Little Sioux River valley for wintering birds.

One of my favorite areas is the Grant Township Cemetery near Ticonic, a near ghost town on an extinct branch line of the Illinois Central Railway, which at one time had been laid out for their main line to cross the Missouri River and on to the untamed west. This cemetery is a typical, undisturbed, rural plot with a fine stand of big conifers of several varieties. On December 26, 1956, when I made a 125-mile trip to Ticonic, I was prepared for almost anything.

I have found that in doing really good bird work even in a small area, it is a good practice to go over the entire area once and then go over it again—then some sixth sense tells you to make a third try. On the first trip through the cemetery, I found several fat Robins, several Flickers and Chickadees, all busy in the cedar trees. On the second tour I again found these birds, but flushed a small flock of Red Crossbills from the farthest corner of the area. I continued on around the cemetery and was almost back to the gate, when I decided to make one more swing, right up through the middle of the pines. I had not gone far when I saw a light gray bird fly to the top of a tall spruce. One look with the glasses at a distinctive, white eye-ring was enough to identify the Townsend's Solitaire. When I deliberately flushed this bird, I noticed the buff in the wings, but the white in the tail was not too noticeable as the

bird flew from one tree to another. The Solitaire soon began to feed quietly on cedar berries. The abundance of berries both on the ground and on the trees suggested plenty of food there for all those birds during most winters. Thus another winter field trip had yielded a rare bird for the state list and had given me a keen thrill of satisfaction.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

### RECENT BIRD BOOKS

THE BIRD BIOGRAPHIES OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, Selected and Edited by Alice Ford (Macmillan Company, New York, 1957; cloth, 8vo size, pp. i-xv+1-282, with 12 colored plates; price, \$10.00).

The glamorous Audubon has ever appealed to writers and publishers. Books about him have appeared in a steady stream over the years, and this has been especially true in the last decade, when publishers seem to have found Audubon a magic name. The Editor has more than 25 books by or about Audubon in his own library; this is only a part of the copious literature about the great artist-naturalist. In direct contrast is Audubon's contemporary, Alexander Wilson, who is unknown to the majority of people. Wilson, though possessing great ability as a student of birds and considerable skill as an artist, lacked the drive and showmanship of Audubon—which perhaps explains why he has been left in the shadows.

The "Letterpress" or written text of Audubon's bird studies was published in 1831-1839, entitled "Ornithological Biography." The "Elephant Folio" colored plates which were being produced from 1827 to 1838 needed an accompanying text and Audubon set about filling this need. He had a great deal to write about in his observations of birds, and the resulting work ran through five volumes. Not only did he describe the habits of more than 400 species of North American birds from personal observation, but he interspersed his bird biographies with lively chapters called "Episodes," which describe many aspects of pioneer life. These are absorbing reading, and it is fortunate that they have been reprinted in various books and are thus available to many readers.

We have often wondered why some publisher has not reprinted Audubon's "Ornithological Biography" in its entirety. Although more than a third of the text is composed of anatomical data, a complete reprint would have considerable historical and reference value.

The present book is made up of selections from the Ornithological Biography by a foremost student of Audubon, Miss Alice Ford, who was born at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

She selected 80 bird biographies from the several hundred written by Audubon. These, in her judgment, are among the most interesting and serve as the best illustrations of his powers of observation and ability as a descriptive writer. Many of the passages have been toned down and the unwieldy sentences broken up, to conform to our present-day conceptions of readability in prose literature. Many readers will regret Miss Ford's changing of the original wording—preferring to have the descriptions in Audubon's own phrasing, even though he was occasionally stilted and inclined to soar off into romantic verbosity.

But Audubon is always interesting, and bird students and many others will enjoy the several evenings of good reading afforded by this new book. Accompanying the text and greatly enhancing it are 12 paintings by Audubon. These are in color and are reproduced for the first time. The originals are from the collection owned by the Harvard College Library and the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University, whose administrators granted permission for their use in this distinctive Audubon book.—F. J. P.

BIRDS OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, by the late T. C. Stephens; revised and annotated by William Youngworth (Occasional Papers No. 3, Nebr. Ornith. Union, 1957; paper binding, 4to size, pp. i-vi+1-28, 1 map; price, \$1.00).

This is the third in a series of special papers referring to the ornithological work of the late Dr. T. C. Stephens of Sioux City. The first one (1955) covered the birds of Union County, South Dakota, with the added observations of Youngworth and W. R. Felton, Jr. The second was "An Annotated Bibliography of North Dakota Ornithology," by Dr. Stephens, published in 1956.

Dakota County, lying across the Missouri River from Sioux City, was a favorite bird study area for the late Dr. Stephens. He first visited it in the spring of 1907, and in later years made 169 recorded trips there. He also made intensive studies of the literature in order to include all records of birds in his tabulation for the county. The county list contains 226 species. It is well annotated with dates, locations and other information. Most of the list is based on the original paper by Dr. Stephens, but later records have been included to bring it up to the present time. The list closes with a bibliography of Dakota County references.

Again we are indebted to Youngworth for doing a fine work in making a valuable regional paper available. It was published (offset printing) in an edition of only 250 copies. No doubt it will soon be out of print.—F. J. P.

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THE ORNITHOLOGISTS' GUIDE, Edited by Major-General H. P. W. Hutson (Philosophical Library, Inc., New York, 1956; cloth, 8vo size, pp. i-xix+1-275, with 34 text figs.; price, \$6.00).

Modern bird students are surrounded by hundreds of bird books, with dozens of new publications added to the accumulation each year. This is indicative of the growing interest in our popular hobby, but it also poses a problem for those who are trying to make a cash allotment cover a certain number of the best books on the market.

The book under consideration is an English publication, released in this country under an American imprint. It is sponsored by the British Ornithologists' Union and, according to the preface written by the B. O. U. president, the intention is to provide a handbook for the "overseas student." Just where this student is supposed to be located is not readily apparent, though we presume he is an isolated worker, off in some remote corner of the British Empire where he has contact with the home base only at long intervals.

For such a purpose the book seems well designed and it is quite complete within the confines of 275 pages. The list of contributors is an imposing array of (mostly) British ornithological talent, beginning with the Rev. Edward A. Armstrong and running down through 46 names, including Green, Lack, Lockley, Meinertzhagen, Mountfort, Nicholson, Peter Scott, Thompson, Tinbergen, and Wynne-Edwards.

It is divided into these nine sections: 'General', covering field recognition, collecting, classification, plumage, life-history studies; 'Geographical Aspects', mostly on habitat, range and migration; 'General Behavior'; 'Breeding', touching seasons, nesting sites, courtship displays and parental cares; 'Protection', with a review of conservation and game management; 'Study Techniques', covering 20 smaller classifications such as field glasses, photography and tape-recording, trapping, banding, making censuses and breeding surveys, making skins, and observing birds at night; 'Suggestions for Special Study'; 'Regional Information', a chapter giving lists of reference books for



various regions of the world, important bird collections, and societies and individuals who would be useful for contacts and providing further information (most of the world is covered, including the West Indies and Latin America, but U.S.A. is omitted); 'General Information', a final chapter giving addresses of the "bird-ringing" societies of the world, a listing of bird reserves in the United Kingdom, and the various British bird societies and their serial publications.

The book is well presented but is sparsely illustrated. No doubt it will prove to be a fine guidebook for the isolated bird student who is searching for ways to supplement his field studies.—F. J. P.

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#### NECROLOGY

**Charles C. Ayres, Sr.**, of Ottumwa, died December 27, 1956. He was 92 years old, having been born June 10, 1864, at Agency, Iowa. He had lived in Ottumwa more than 75 years and was the oldest member of the Wapello County bar; his admittance to legal practice was about 60 years ago. He was married to Nellie Fullen in 1889; she died in 1940. Two sons survive—Harold Ayres of Hollywood, California, and Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa attorney and our former IOU President.

Although the elder Mr. Ayres was not an IOU member, he always came to our meetings with his son, and probably attended more of our conventions and was better known than many of our regular members. He had many talents, one of which was the writing of verse, an occupation that occupied much of his time after retirement from legal practice. His poems would number in the hundreds, and if put into published form would fill a large book. He will be remembered for his keen observations on daily living and events of the times and for his genial personality. Burial was at Agency.

**Dr. Lawrence Emerson Hicks**, of Columbus, Ohio, died from cerebral hemorrhage on January 20, 1957. He had been a member of Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 1938. He was born at Fredricktown, Ohio, October 22, 1905, and graduated from Otterbein College in 1928; he received the degrees of M. A. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1929 and 1933. Dr. Hicks was associated with the Ohio Wildlife Research Station from 1936 to 1945. In 1938 he was United States delegate to the International Ornithological Congress at Rouen, France. He held various positions of game ecologist, forester, conservationist, biologist, botanist, instructor, and wildlife writer. He also held membership in many ornithological and scientific organizations. He was a Fellow and former Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a former Secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Society. He is survived by his wife, the former Thyra BeVier, and a son and daughter. Burial was at Fredricktown, Ohio.

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#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

One of our new members is Mrs. Wayne R. Black of Pleasantville, Iowa, who recently moved to our state from Warner Robins, Georgia. Mrs. Black was active in the Middle Georgia Audubon Society and the Georgia Ornithological Society, and had one paper and a few observations published in "The Oriole," quarterly journal of the latter society. She also did some banding in cooperation with Dr. David Johnston, of Mercer University, Macon, Georgia.

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus, and the Duluth Bird Club will be hosts to the 1957 meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society on June 13 through 16. The site of the meeting will be the University of Minnesota campus at Duluth. The local com-

mittee on arrangements is planning an extensive program of field work, including an all-day trip on Sunday to the wilderness country of north Minnesota. A special invitation to Iowa Ornithologists' Union members to attend this meeting came with the above announcement from Dr. P. B. Hofslund, chairman of the local committee on arrangements, University of Minnesota, Duluth. We hope that many of our members will be able to attend this meeting, which will no doubt be one of the finest in the long series of meetings of the Wilson Society.

O. P. Allert, our long-time member of McGregor, extended his travels some 6,300 miles in January when he was the companion of another man from McGregor on an automobile trip through the West and Southwest. The places visited make an imposing list which we cite briefly: Petrified Forest, painted desert and old mission ruins at Gran Quivira, Grand Canyon on the south rim, Marble Rock Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Hoover Dam, Las Vegas, Yuma, Tombstone, El Paso, Carlsbad Cavern, Hot Springs National Park, and home through the Ozarks. His letter to the Editor contained some interesting references, such as having to wade through knee-high snow for 500 feet to get near the General Sherman Tree, and of seeing a coyote, a bobcat and a ring-tailed cat at different places. He bought a new camera and shot 21 rolls of film on the trip. A good writer, Allert has allowed this talent to lie dormant for a long time as far as our magazine is concerned. We would like to have him write an account of this and other trips and to mention the birds that he searched out at different spots in the various states he has visited. He has a deep-rooted interest in the history of the Old West, and has taken time on these trips to visit the scenes of many famous events in pioneer history. We are glad to note that birds as a first-love have always held his attention.

# HOTEL GARDSTON HOTEL ORLEANS

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